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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

SP - 161/82
29 October 1982
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MEMORANDUM FOR: [redacted] SOVA/SF

[redacted] SOVA/SF

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FROM: Assistant National Intelligence Officer
for Strategic Programs

SUBJECT: Intelligence Assessment: Soviet National Air Defense
Aviation Forces: Changes in Border Areas

1. I have put my hand to your draft in some detail because I think it covers an important subject. (See annotated draft, attached.) I realize that it is a difficult subject because the organization and operations of the national air defense forces are still not well understood. I think your piece comes close to clearing up the matter (especially, the paragraph at the bottom of page 3, top of page 4 and on page 10). (SU)

2. I have been troubled by previous SOVA and DIA issuances on this subject because they:

--Did not draw a distinction between command (and command resubordination) and operational control of air defense of the USSR.

--Asserted that the reorganization would facilitate homeland air defense and theater operations, but if air defense "control" paralleled the "command" arrangements described, SAC would have an easier run.

--Did not convey that the changes portended a better defense of the USSR against a more sophisticated Western threat.

--Said little about where all the changes were heading.

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3. I think your piece goes a long way toward answering the key questions--to the extent of our present information. The changes I have proposed are intended to emphasize and clarify the key judgments I think are supported by the discussion. I believe many of the key points in your paper would be an improvement over the draft text of this year's NIE 11-3/8, therefore, when you turn your draft around again, please send us a copy promptly.

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Attachment

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